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Marginal Column

It has been made plain by now that very many people find it difficult to understand why the Minister of Interior has suspended "Kol Ha'am," and now many are wondering why he appears to be unable to enforce it. But the question is, why should "Kol Ha'am" be banned at all at the present time? The Communists, to be sure, have no rights in a democratic regime. Freedom of the press, like all other freedoms, can only be abused by the enemies of democracy. But the decisive test is whether the suppression of a Fascist or Communist paper contributes towards the preservation of democracy. It is not a question of principle but of tactics. If it constitutes a danger to public or state security, such a paper should be suppressed. But situations might arise when the existence of such a paper is no danger and might even be desirable, for the simple reason that it deflates its own purposes, that it discredits itself as the result of the line it takes (or is forced to take) not merely in the eyes of the public but even in the eyes of the party stalwarts. Such appears to be the case at the present time. The position of "Kol Ha'am" as a paper should be done by way of interfering with its staying in its own poisonous juice of Jewish self-hate.

There is the decisive test: Are the editors of "Kol Ha'am" and the articles of the "Kol Ha'am" leaders liable to endanger democracy or not? At the present time it appears that the Communist paper does a distinct service to democracy. Its articles not only fail to convince any outsider, they promote dissension and spread confusion among those party members who cannot stomach the "Stalinist" style in Hebrew, and they effectively antagonize most fellow-travellers. Communist publications are indeed at the present moment the most effective anti-Communist propaganda and for this reason they ought not to be banned. If a member of the Cabinet states that the Communists line is Fascist and anti-Semitic this might leave some people unconvinced. But if Messrs. Wilner and Sneh should quote Stalin and Malenkov in order to prove that Jews behind the Iron Curtain will have to be put in concentration camps and that this is a Socialist progressive step, and a victory for the cause of world peace—then this course will be vastly more convincing than any attacks on Stalinism by anti-Communists.

The suppression of "Kol Ha'am" has evoked a number of remarks which appear to disregard completely whatever lessons might be learned from the past twenty years. Unfortunately it is not true that true liberty and true liberalism can afford to be almost infinitely long suffering and tolerant, as Friday's leading article in this paper suggested. We have learned the relation between liberty and vigilance the hard way. Stalinism and Fascism are not merely ideas or ideologies—as such they can be accepted or rejected—but this is the minor part of the problem. Liberalism can be infinitely tolerant of Stalinism as an idea, but then the party militants do not as a rule happen to be philosophers. The power of attraction of Stalinism as an idea is not considerably larger than the attraction of Buchananism or Agudat Israel, and it is certainly not very dangerous. But what about spies and foreign agents and terrorists?

Those who ask for freedom of the press for the Stalinists on principle have to admit the same right to the Nazis, but this of course they will not do, and quite rightly. Which shows that their thinking is founded not on principle but on sentiment—on the assumption that Stalinism is preferable to Fascism (because in the past it has) and that its "good kernel" has not been affected despite everything that happened. Not less naive is the assumption that "dignified protest" will have any effect on the Kremlin (apart from ridicule) and that any "dignified" action abroad might do the Jews behind the Iron Curtain a disservice. It might be argued of course that we should not be impatient: Those who argue this way have been consistently, and some professionally, wrong on Russia and Communism for a long time. How can we expect them all of a sudden to understand what is going on there and to offer sound advice? They will need another few side shocks and some well-timed reminders. But then time is running short and one might be forgiven one's impatience on occasion.

U.S. Urges Quick Rome Action On European Army

ROME, Saturday (AP).—President Eisenhower has told Italy, and indirectly the rest of Western Europe that he is highly interested in the speedy formation of the European Defence Community. Premier Alcide De Gasperi disclosed this tonight after a two-hour meeting with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Mutual Security Administration Director Harold Stassen.

Mr. Dulles delivered the message from President Eisenhower in the form of a letter to Signor De Gasperi, and old friend of the President.

In his reply to the President the Premier said, "We have the very same desires in this matter. We are especially close to the U.S. in our feelings concerning a defence community."

Mr. Dulles himself was tactful after the meeting. "We had good long talks in the areas of common interest to our two countries," he told reporters at the Palazzo Chigi. However, he did promise a statement before he and Mr. Stassen take off early tomorrow for Paris in a continuation of their whirlwind 10-day tour of Italy, France, England, West Germany, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Over 100 Missing In Irish Sea Disaster

GLASGOW, Saturday (Reuters).—Rescue teams stood by helplessly watching frantic, screaming passengers tossed by giant seas today as they clung to rafts and wreckage in the Irish Sea after the liner Princess Victoria sank beneath them.

Authorities in Belfast said they feared "considerably more than 100" of the ship's passengers and crew were lost.

The 5,000-ton steamer was ferrying 150 passengers across 60 kms. of furious seas between Scotland and Northern Ireland in the worst gale there in living memory when the engine room flooded and the vessel broke up.

The passengers, including Major John Hume, Northern Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, were ordered to abandon ship along with the crew of 60. A fleet of tugboats to the rescue through seething seas saw men on rafts, some clinging to the ship's mast, as they drifted into a pool of oil.

The Princess Victoria, a railway steamer plying between Stranraer, Scotland, and Larne, Northern Ireland, was hit by a series of winds soon after setting off from Stranraer. Tugs raced to answer her distress, but the gale smashed the Scottish coast, wrecking electricity services, sinking small boats and tearing roofs off houses.

An aircraft helped direct the operations. Other planes dropped flares. The British destroyer Contest reached the Princess Victoria shortly after she was reported sinking. A tanker from Belfast discharged her cargo of oil in an effort to save the lives of the passengers.

As the fight to save the passengers went on, the dusk, fog, and a bitter cold blizzard blew over the sea, reducing visibility.

U.S. Army Denies 'Staging' Battle

WASHINGTON, Saturday (Reuters).—The American Army Chief of Staff said today that the controversial "Operation Snatch" in Korea was a perfectly sound and legitimate operation. He angrily denied it was a specially staged event.

Chief of Staff Lawton Collins flew this morning from Korea. He had been asked to supply details of the operation—a combat raid carried out last Sunday before visiting General and war correspondents—at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

Preliminary investigations have convinced Senate and House Armed Services Committees that "Operation Snatch" was a proper military operation and not a show for visitors.

The shooting raid was undertaken by Congressmen on Thursday as "a show attack" and a "dramatic showing" of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee summoned General Collins to explain the affair.

The British Foreign Secretary was also asked about the matter in the House of Commons.

FRENCH ATTACK VIETMINH FORCE

HANOI, Saturday (AP).—French forces today continued to hit Vietminh regulars hard in their "Operation Normandie," 40 kms. south-east of Hanoi. They killed 40 Vietminh troops today and more than 60 yesterday, the French High Command announced.

The battle was launched yesterday by a French marine commando landing in the Vietminh-held port of Quinhon, near the site of a newly-reported Vietminh troop concentration. (AP, Reuters)

Russia Hits Officials for Spying, Carelessness

MOSCOW, Saturday (Reuters).—The Soviet Union today alleged that Soviet state secrets had been "leaked" to British, U.S. and French spies by "careless" Soviet officials. Officials in four Ministries, the Economic Bank and the supply system were accused of playing into the hands of the spies.

"Pravda" said the officials' names and also named one spy, A. I. Orlov, who attempted to pass a secret document to a foreign power. It warned that U.S., British, French and other "imperialist" intelligence services are spending "huge sums" to get information about the Soviet Union and its allies.

In Lithuania, "Pravda" added, a "group of rootless cosmopolitans and Jewish bourgeois nationalists" had been unmasked. They had "sold themselves to American imperialism" and were engaged in espionage and wrecking.

At the same time "Pravda" ran an editorial attacking the heads of four Ukrainian Ministries for picking the wrong keymen for trading and cooperative organizations which had become "infested with thieves and plunderers of communal property."

USSR Gives Signal For Spy Hunt

POST Special Correspondent

After a comparative lull lasting for about ten days the signal was given in yesterday's Soviet press and radio for a concentrated spy hunt.

All leading articles in the press and many broadcasts dealt with the urgent necessity to unmask the internal enemy. At the same time the anti-Jewish campaign became more outspoken than ever. "Pravda" mentioned in its editorial the existence of a Jewish nationalist spy centre in Lithuania.

Confirm Beria's Decline

At the same time it was ominously hinted that certain Soviet leaders had revealed an attitude of equanimity in this respect. It was noted, moreover, that while the M.G.B. (Ministry of State Security) was praised for its action against spies and saboteurs, the M.V.D. (the Ministry for Internal Affairs) was not mentioned at all though it is supposed to deal with such cases.

This tends to confirm previous reports of a serious decline in the position of Lavrenti Beria. Both "Pravda" and "Izvestia" said that the entire people love the secret Police and that everyone should give it maximum assistance, a statement which strongly resembles similar outbursts on the eve of the big purge in 1936.

UKRAINE TO EXPOSE JEWISH NATIONALISM

NEW YORK, Saturday (INA).—The "New York Times" Moscow correspondent reported yesterday that 2,300,000 Komsomol members in the Ukraine have been directed by their leader to carry out a "merciless" struggle to expose what he described as the "bestial" agents of American imperialism—"Ukrainian Jewish bourgeois nationalism and Zionism."

Sneh to Cooperate In Fighting Zionists

TEL AVIV, Saturday.—Dr. Moshe Sneh announced at a public meeting here last night that his "Left Faction" will work closely with the Communist Party in "fighting present Government policy and Zionism."

He denied anti-Semitism existed in Russia, and describing popular democracies as anti-Semitic was only an effort to build up a public feeling here to "fight the Soviets in order to deliver its Jews," he said.

Unidentified persons had searched the premises of the Israel-U.S.S.R. Friendship League, Dr. Sneh also claimed.

Arab Communist leaders are now, after Dr. Sneh's dismissal, explaining the "Zionist nature of Mapam" to their followers. Mr. Emil Habibi, M.K., told his Haifa audience yesterday that Mapam was led by persons who had fought under Colonel Ordé Wingate against "the anti-imperialist Arab revolt" in 1933.

Secrecy Shrouds Parley Of Ahad Ha'avoda

HAIFA, Saturday.—Mapam's Ahad Ha'avoda faction, which held its conference here this weekend, shrouded itself in secrecy and refused to authorize a statement when the meeting ended tonight.

Nearly all the leaders of the party were present from the veteran Yitzhak Tabenkin, who took three hours to present his views to the 320 delegates, to Ahiel Yigal Alon.

The general picture that emerged from first-hand reports is that events in the Eastern Bloc since the Prague trial have shaken the rank and file followers of the faction out of their ideological complacency and that they are pressing for a more vigorous and vocal reaffirmation of Zionist principles than their leaders have dared to make so far.

VIENNA JEWS SPLIT OVER EAST EUROPE

VIENNA, Saturday (Reuters).—Jewish sources here reported today a growing split in the community over anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe. A number of elders are said to have withdrawn from the Community.

Reports spoke of angry scenes during a meeting of the Community Council last Wednesday.

Ike Said Planning To 'Deneutralize' Formosa Armies

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—President Eisenhower is believed to be planning to lift the U.S. naval ban against Nationalist China's attacks on the Chinese People's Republic, Government sources said today. This may be one of the President's first moves to make the Communists sue for peace in Korea and Indo-China, they added.

Such a move is apparently assured of strong support in Congress.

Mr. Eisenhower today sponsored with Admiral William Leahy, former Chief of Naval Operations, but the latter denied the question of Formosa had arisen during his 15-minute talk with the President. He said, however, that it might be a "bright idea" to have the Chinese Nationalists for raids against the China coast when asked about reports that the U.S. 7th Fleet will be withdrawn from its job of neutralizing Formosa.

Formosa Excited, Anxious

Reports from Taipei, Formosa capital, said news of the plan caused excitement and anxiety there. Top-ranking officials of Chiang Kai-shek's island stronghold indicated the reports were too premature for comment.

Opinion was, however, that the U.S. should continue to guarantee Formosa against an invasion from the mainland while freeing the Nationalists' hands for action against the coast.

Jailed for Spying For 'Non-Existent' State

TEHRAN, Saturday (Reuters).—All Shneur and his son, Ali, were found guilty of espionage for Israel and sentenced to life imprisonment on Friday by the Jordan Supreme Court sitting in Nablus. A third Palestinian Arab, Youssef Abdullah al-Fawaz, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on the same charge.

More than 30 Arab Lebanon and civilian witnesses appeared in the case during which legal argument revolved round the existence of Israel and its non-recognition by Arab governments. It was argued that Jordan citizens could not be charged for espionage carried out in a state neither recognized by, nor existing for, Jordan.

Iran to Take Over Soviet Fisheries Concession

TEHRAN, Saturday (Reuters).—Iranian officials today said they had sent a note today to the Soviet Embassy requesting them to appoint a representative to work out details of the fisheries concession which Persia takes over tomorrow.

At the same time, it was announced that representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Foreign Affairs would soon go to Bandar Pahlavi, where the fisheries are located, to take over from the Russians.

The 25-year-old Russian fishing concession in the Caspian Sea ends today. The Persian Government announced on Thursday that it would not renew it.

Last year the joint Persian-Soviet fishery company produced 110 tons of caviar and over 5,000 tons of fish.

British Concerned Over Formosa Report

LONDON, Saturday (AP).—President Eisenhower's reported decision to lift the U.S. naval ban against Nationalist China's attacks on the Chinese People's Republic was expected to be fully considered about any basic change of U.S. policy in the Far East.

London newspapers gave big headlines to the report.

Officially the Foreign Office was silent. A spokesman pointed out that the U.S. had merely said that Mr. Eisenhower was in his message to Congress on the subject that there was "no comment."

Social-Democrats Charge Neo-Fascists in Bonn Gov't

BONN, Saturday (UP).—West Germany's second largest political party, the Social Democrats, demanded today an investigation of the "undemocratic and neo-fascist elements" which, it said, had infiltrated the government.

The party executive issued a proclamation accusing Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's government of "doing nothing decisive to disclose and expunge anti-democratic activities and radical right-wing elements."

The declaration referred to the British inquiry into the plot to revive the Nazi state and blamed the government for passively allowing the "penetration of such forces into political, economic and official positions."

Austrian Treaty Talks Postponed

PARIS, Saturday (Reuters).—M. Leon Mauvais, prominent member of the Communist Party's Politburo, today accused the expelled Communist leader, M. Andre Marty, of trying to organize a splinter party.

The postponement was offered in parallel notes delivered in Moscow on Thursday by the Ambassadors of the three powers. Russia had previously been asked to attend a meeting of the Austrian treaty deputies for yesterday. She refused to attend the meeting unless the Western powers agreed in advance to certain conditions, chief of which was the withdrawal of the proposed abbreviated treaty draft and the return to an earlier and longer proposal.

German Ex-Actress Jailed for Treason

BONN, Saturday (Reuters).—A German court here today sentenced Frau Maria Knuth, 64-year-old former actress reported dying of cancer, to four years hard labour for attempted high treason.

Jordan Asks UK to Protect Border From 'Aggression'

'Attacks' Featured In Jordan Press

Prominence was given in the Jordan press to the alleged border incidents of the last few days. The attack on Falameh village was carried out by a force of 300 fully equipped Israeli soldiers in battle-dress, who were guided to the Arab positions by an Israeli plane, "Falastin," the Old City daily, reported. The attack was preceded by a half hour barrage from three-inch mortars based in near-by Jewish settlements. During the battle, which continued for five hours, the Jews succeeded in demolishing some of the National Guards' defence positions and in penetrating the village, where they blew up three houses.

The paper also claimed that the Jordan and UN committees of enquiry which arrived at the scene on the following morning, found a large number of ammonium bombs, as well as bombs, grenades and mines. Traces of blood and marks of bodies being dragged towards Israeli territory were also found.

At a meeting of the Mukhtar of the villages of the Tulkarm district on Friday, it was decided to demand that the Jordan authorities build defensive fortifications along the "Triangle" armistice line.

Writing editorially, "Talastin" declared that only the joint action of Amman, Damascus, Beirut and Cairo could give the proper reply to the attacks. "A-Difa," the second Old City paper, said that a non-cooperation policy should be initiated until General Riley is dismissed from his duties.

Arab Commanders To Study SACME

The Arab states' commanders-in-chief are to meet in Cairo in the middle of February to discuss Allied plans for a Middle East defence organization (SACME), and to study the possibilities of extending the Arab League's collective security pact into a regional defence organization, ANA reported yesterday.

In an interview with a Swiss correspondent yesterday, Col. Adib Shishakli of Syria, expressed his surprise that the Western Powers should urge the Arab states to join SACME without first granting them the necessary arms to establish a powerful regime of their own.

Anglo-Jordan Financial Talks Open In London

LONDON, Saturday (Reuters).—Britain and Jordan began private financial talks at the Treasury here today. The discussions, expected to last about 10 days, cover Jordan's balance of payments, sterling balances in London and development projects, an authoritative source said.

The development plans include irrigation, road, industrial and agricultural schemes.

The Jordan delegation includes Finance Minister Musa Nasser and Commerce and Economic Affairs Minister El Dheiri. They are negotiating with Treasury officials and will later meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer Richard Butler.

Israel to Import \$1m. Of Austrian Textiles

TEL AVIV, Saturday.—A \$1m. pact with Austria for the import of textiles, mainly yarn, was concluded here yesterday. Dr. Karl Hartl, the Austrian Consul-General in Israel, said at the weekly luncheon of the Commercial and Industrial Club on Friday.

It is the first instalment of the 100m. Schilling credit which the Austrian National Bank gave the Bank Leumi last September. The agreement was not implemented for five months for various reasons, Dr. Hartl said.

The Austrian Hospice in Nazareth had been returned to the care of the Austrian Consulate, Dr. Hartl said, and would be reopened soon. The Hospice was under the successive military occupation of five armies since the British took it over in 1938. They were British, Australian, Polish, Kaukian's irregulars, and the Israeli defence forces.

Recalling that some of the most sacred places of Christianity were in Israel, Dr. Hartl remarked, "That imposes enormous responsibility on you—as well as on others."

Dr. Hartl spoke French "to respect the understandable susceptibilities of the audience. It is not that I deny my native tongue," he added.

ISRAEL AND MIDDLE EAST

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